

Minutes
Youth Committee Meeting
Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
October 22, 2015 ~ Banks County Parks and Recreation
Homer, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Committee met on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Banks County Parks and Recreation. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Christi Hill-for Brenda Dalin	Jessica Williams	
Bonnie Loffredo	Ebony Tucker	
Lynne Warren	Angela Pugh	
Joan Hughes	Danielle Avelar	
	Shameka Harrison	

Jessica Williams, Youth Supervisor called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Jessica began the meeting by introducing Shameka Harrison, the new Program Assistant. Shameka has four children and is a recent graduate from the University of North Georgia. Shameka stated that she is glad to be a part of Workforce Development and looks forward to working with the youth in this area.

Jessica asked Ebony Tucker, Senior Youth Case Manager to provide the committee with an update on the College and Credit Recovery Programs. Ebony announced that she received 19 new college files at the beginning of the fall semester. She will have seven youth graduating at the end of the fall semester.

One student has graduated from the credit recovery program at White County Mountain Education center, and is now taking classes at Lanier Technical College. One other student from this site will be transitioning to GED classes at the White County Adult Learning Center. Ebony stated that the credit recovery program will be expanding. She will be holding an event at the Stephens County site on October 27th for students who have been withdrawn and want to come back and finish earning credits for graduation. She hopes to hold events at all of the sites in the area, with Bowman as the next site because Hart County students attend there. She will be meeting with all of the graduation coaches from the centers on November 3rd explain the Credit Recovery Program and recruit youth.

Jessica asked Danielle Avelar, Youth Career Facilitator to update the Committee on the GED program. Danielle stated that she has been traveling with Whitney Williams, Adult Program assistant, to visit the GED centers in our area for program overviews. Currently

Minutes
Youth Committee Meeting
Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
October 22, 2015 ~ Banks County Parks and Recreation
Homer, GA

there are 28 active GED participants, 18 pending applications and three youth have already earned their GED's.

Jessica asked Angela Pugh, Independent Living Life Skills Mentor to update the Committee on the Regional Youth Detention Center Program. Angela began by providing the council with some background on how the program works. She stated that while she is the case manager for the RYDC youth, Samantha O'Day completes intake process with the youth. She explained that in the beginning of the program at the RYDC, the majority of the youth housed there were incarcerated for petty crimes such as truancy, but since there have been several closings of Youth Detention Centers around Georgia, youth with more severe crimes have been sent to the Hall County location. Angela also stated that she mentors the youth and keeps them encouraged while they are working on their GED's. She teaches them life skills, social skills and helps them work through any issues they may have within the facility. So far two of the youth who completed their GED, have enrolled in technical college while still in treatment. There has been a total of 8 youth to obtain their GED's through the RYDC GED program. Angela stated that there was some doubt from RYDC administration about the program being successful. They agree now that it has been a successful program, and are looking to implement the program in other facilities in Georgia.

Angela explained that she held workshops with the groups listed below:

- Hall County Adult Learning Center
- Project Search-Hall County
- Banks County High School
- Hall County Department of Family & Children Services
- Dawson and Stephens Department of Corrections
- Woody Gap High School
- White and Union County Mountain Education
- Franklin County High School

Jessica stated that the staff is working hard to get the word out about WIOA services and has instigated a closer partnership with agencies such as Ninth District, Housing Authorities, and DFCS to offer workshops and services to residents and clients.

Angela stated that DFCS has been requiring parents who have had their children removed from the home attend these workshops. In conjunction, the Mobile Training Units come to help them with resumes building and job search. It is required for the parent to obtain employment before the children will be released back into the home.

Minutes
Youth Committee Meeting
Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
October 22, 2015 ~ Banks County Parks and Recreation
Homer, GA

Bonnie Loffredo, L.I.F.T. Program Coordinator for Habersham County informed the Committee that, with the changes in Workforce Development funding, the Board of Education has decided to fund the transportation component of the after-school program in Habersham. Bonnie stated that the Assistant Principal realizes how important the program has been to the school and the students and has made sure the students will have the transportation needed to be able to stay for tutoring.

Jessica introduced a new project that staff has been working on called "Mapping Your Future". Jessica explained that this initiative is a series of workshops and activities to increase knowledge of, and instigate future planning among students in the 8th grade, and will also provide resources for juniors and seniors in high school. The program began as a pilot program at C.W. Davis Middle School in Flowery Branch, and Jessica stated the plan to begin pilot programs in Banks County and Franklin County.

Jessica explained that she wants the school systems to understand that even though the funding has changed, we can still offer services through these workshops and activities to the school for the students. Shameka will continue to work on contacting all of the schools in the region to see what services they need that Workforce can provide. Jessica explained that the workshops can be customized to fit the school's needs and assist with career fairs or help the school develop one.

Jessica also announced that she has been working with a group on the development of the One Stop Center. The new law enforces the One-Stop Design to make it more convenient for customers looking for services to be able to access several resources at one location. There is no definite design or location for the One-stop yet. Jessica explained that the group is in the process of getting all of the partners together to come up with ideas to better serve the customers. She will provide updates as things develop.

Jessica asked the Committee to review the minutes for any changes, no changes were needed

Jessica announced that the next meeting will be held on February 18, 2016 in Habersham County, and she will send out the location at a later date.